Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A medical implant for the controllable delivery of at least one pharmaceutical compound to a localized area within a patient, said implant comprising:

an implantable medical device having a surface and a coating formed on at least a portion of said surface, said coating having at least two polymer layers, at least one of said polymer layers incorporating at least one releasable pharmaceutical compound, each of said polymer layers having at least one physical property affecting the releasability of said releasable pharmaceutical compound that differs from said at least one other layer, wherein said at least one physical property affecting the releasability of said at least one pharmaceutical compound is molecular weight.

Claim 2 (original): The medical implant of claim 1 wherein said medical device is selected from the group consisting of stents, probes, catheters, micro-particles, pacing leads, vascular grafts, access devices, in-dwelling access ports, valves, plates, barriers, supports, shunts, discs, and joints.

Claim 3 (original): The medical implant of claim 2 wherein said stent is selected from the group consisting of vascular stents, biliary stents, and esophogeal stents.

Claim 4 (canceled):

Claim 5 (canceled):

Claim 6 (currently amended): The medical implant of claim [[5]] 1 wherein said molecular weight range from about 1 kDa to 100,000 kDa.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The medical implant of claim [[4]] 1 wherein said polymer layers comprise a polymer ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of poly(caprolactone), poly(lactic acid), poly(glycolic acid), poly(ethylene-vinyl acetate), collagen, heparinized collagen, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polytetrafluoroethylene, polyethylene glycol, polystyrene,

acrylates, polyesters, epoxides, silicones, cellulose, and copolymers thereof.

Claim 8 (original): The medical implant of claim 1 wherein said at least one pharmaceutical compound is an anti-restentoic drug.

Claim 9 (original): The medical implant of claim 8 wherein said anti-restenotic compound is a macrolide antibiotic.

Claim 10 (original): The medical implant of claim 9 wherein the macrolide antibiotic is rapamycin or analogues and derivatives thereof.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for controllably delivering at least one pharmaceutical compound to a localized area within a patient, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a controllable drug releasing gradient polymer coating on an implantable medical device; and

implanting said medical device at a specific target site within a patient.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method for making a controllable drug releasing gradient coating for the surface of a medical device, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a first polymer layer on said surface of said medical device, said first polymer layer containing at least one releasably bound pharmaceutical compound and having at least one physical property affecting the releasability of said at least one pharmaceutical compound; and

forming at least one additional polymer layer on said first polymer layer, said at least one additional layer differing in said at least one physical property, wherein said at least one physical property affecting the releasability of said at least one pharmaceutical compound is molecular weight.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12 wherein said generally tubular structure is a stent or a catheter.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein said stent is self-expanding.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein said stent is mechanically expandable.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein said stent is bioresorbable.

Claim 17 (canceled):

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~17~~ 12 wherein said molecular weights range from about 1 kDa to 100,000 kDa.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 12 wherein said polymer layers are selected from the group consisting of poly(caprolactone), poly(lactic acid), poly(glycolic acid), poly(ethylene-vinyl acetate), collagen, heparinized collagen, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polytetrafluoroethylene, polyethylene glycol, polystyrene, acrylates, polyesters, epoxides, silicones, cellulose, and copolymers thereof.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~17~~ 12 wherein said at least one anti-restenotic compound is contained within adjacent polymer coatings.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 20 wherein said anti-restenotic compound is a macrolide antibiotic.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 21 wherein the macrolide antibiotic is rapamycin or analogues and derivatives thereof.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~17~~ 12 wherein said at least one anti-restenotic compound is coupled to said polymer coating.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 23 wherein said anti-restenotic compound is a macrolide antibiotic.

Claim 25 (original): The method of claim 24 wherein the macrolide antibiotic is rapamycin or analogues and derivatives thereof.